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the observations of Professor SWIFT (L. O. Eclipse Report, 1889, page 203). E. S. H.

ZENOGRAPHICAL FRAGMENTS.

The Motions and Changes of the Markings on Jupiter, during 1886–7.

Under this title Mr. A. STANLEY WILLIAMS, F. R. A. S., has printed a handsome octavo volume, of 118 pages and nine carefully executed plates, which gives the results of his own observations during 1886–7 with a 6½ inch reflecting telescope (power 170). The work consists of seven sections, as follows: Section I treats of the instrument and the methods of observation (usually transits over the central meridian, 312 of which were observed); II treats of the construction of the chart of the markings on *Jupiter* (which gives the relative positions of all the spots from all the observations, reduced to the positions which they would have occupied had every observation been made April 21, 1887, the date of opposition); III speaks of the general arrangement of the belts, and gives an excellent system of nomenclature for the various separate features; IV, by far the longest section, presents the observations of the different spots in a most convenient form; V gives a summary of rotation periods in different Jovian latitudes; VI relates to the different altitudes (in *Jupiter's* atmosphere) of the different features; while VII treats of the repellant influence apparently exercised by the Red Spot on markings in its neighborhood.

This work deserves an extended notice, which cannot be given here; but it should not be allowed to pass without remark, since it affords an admirable example of just the kind of work which amateur observers can prosecute with great success. Its author (a professional man, constantly occupied) has chosen a definite problem, suitable to his instrumental equipment, and by dint of clear conceptions of the nature of the problem to be solved and of persevering observations in his leisure moments, has produced a work of lasting value. It appears that this volume is to be followed by others on the same subject from the same hand. It can be obtained from MITCHELL & HUGHES, publishers, 140 Wardour street, London. The price is not stated. E. S. H.

ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS TO THE OBSERVATORY.

In order to accommodate visitors to the Observatory on the public evenings, a continuous bench, long enough to seat one hundred persons, has been built on the east, south and west sides of the upper gallery of the large dome. As we sometimes have as many as two hundred and fifty visitors to the Observatory during one of our public nights, this addition has become necessary.

The Gundlach Optical Co., of Rochester, N. Y., is making a low-power eye-piece with a large field—something like half a degree—for the use of visitors who come to see the Moon. Such an eye-piece will show enough of the lunar surface to make a *picture* with a background of sky, which is what is really needed to convey the effect. The eye-pieces used in the regular astronomical observations have fields of view of hardly more than $10'$ of arc, and, hence, only serve to show a limited portion of the Moon's surface—less than one-tenth, usually. As the image of the Moon in the large telescope is 6.51 inches in diameter, it follows that the field lens of the new eye-piece must be of about the same dimensions. It will be useful in real work also, for objects like nebulæ and comets, where a large field and full contrast are required. E. S. H.

AMERICAN EQUATORIAL MOUNTINGS ON SALE IN BERLIN.

The Observatory has lately received the price-list of Th. Wegener of Berlin. So far as I have examined it, the instruments appear to be well-designed. It is not for this reason that it is mentioned, but because, on page 6, there is given a full-page wood-cut of the equatorial telescope and mounting of the Observatory of Beloit College, Wisconsin. This admirable mounting was made by Warner & Swasey, of Cleveland, from their own designs, and it is an excellent model to follow. It would have been more straightforward for Herr Wegener to have made some acknowledgment of the source from which he derived his model. His wood-cut has no title, and conveys the impression that the design was made by him. Messrs. Warner & Swasey have, however, no cause to complain. Imitation is the sincerest flattery. I can heartily recommend the design of the mounting which Herr Wegener proposes to make. E. S. H.

NOTES ON DOUBLE STARS.

The Herschel companion to ψ^1 *Aquarii* is shown in the 36-inch telescope to be a very close double star. From a single measure the distance appears to be less than $0''.15$, and, of course, it is a different object, even in a large refractor. This companion has the same proper motion as the large star, and the relative change is